A LETTER

From on Board Their

Majeſties Fleet

NEAR

USHANT,

July the *Twentieth*, 1689.

Giving an Account of the good Condition of it, and of the taking of ſome *French* Ships with

LETTERS from *IRELAND*.

Licenſed and Entered according to Order.

SIR,

HAving this Opportunity, I thought it convenient to let you underſtand how the Affairs are with us here: We have been accruſing ſome days off this Harbour, and have uſed all means to induce the *French* to come out and fight us, but all will not do; although yeſterday our Admiral commanded fifteen Men of War, with four Fire-ſhips, to go into the very Road of *Breſt*, and put up the Flag of Defiance, yet notwithſtanding they would not offer to ſtir. Our Fleet is in a very good condition, and well mann'd, wanting nothing but the Enemy to come out; for we are able to fight any Navy in the World. Our Fleet conſiſts of above Eighty Sail, Twelve of which carrys Flags (*viz.*) five *Engliſh*, and ſeven *Dutch*, and three more are daily expected. Some days ſince we took a ſmall Veſſel going from *France* to *Ireland*; they pretended at firſt to be Proteſtants making their Eſcape, but upon ſtrict Enquiry they were found to be otherwiſe; and upon ſearch we found a Packet of Letters under the Coat of the Maſt, which diſcovered the whole Intrigue. They are *Engliſh*, *Scotch*, and *Iriſh*, who had been for ſome time in the *French* King's Service, and were going to the late King in order to be preferred.

Yeſterday

Yesterday we took a small *French* Man of War coming from *Waterford*; it should have carried Thirty six Guns, but they had but Eighteen, they having left the rest in *Ireland*: They had a Pacquet of Letters from the late King *James* going to the *French King*: The Captain of the said Ship reports, that the late King declares, That all the Nobility of *England* have left King *William*, and that *Scotland* hath unanimously declared for him: He gives out at *Dublin*, that as soon as the *French* Fleet is arrived in *Ireland*, he will go with Ten thousand men into *Scotland*, and so to *England*. But I do not doubt, but by the Blessing of God, that we shall be able to prevent ever their coming thither. Again, he says, That the pretended Parliament have passed an Act, for giving the late King *James* 20000 *l. per* Month, for Thirteen Months: As also another Act, that all Religions shall pay their own Clergy: He comfirms the Defeat near *Enniskelling*, and the taking of the 20000 *l.* and that *London-Derry* holds out, and makes a brave Resistance, and have lately taken ninety Head of Cattel from the Enemy: He adds, That the Bishop and Dean of *Waterford* were barbarously murthered, and several of the Servants wounded; and that the Differences and Jealousies between the *French* and *Irish* grow greater and greater; and he does verily believe, That upon the landing of an *English* Army in that Kingdom, several of the Native *Irish* will revolt, being already weary of the *French* Yoke. This is all at present from

Your Servant to command.

J. L.

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